

## **Council to see plan to boost arts, culture**

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Although San Antonio is recognized internationally for its cultural richness and diversity, its funding and recognition of the arts often lag behind the support given in other major cities.

That may be about to change.

The City Council today will consider adopting the Cultural Collaborative - a proposal designed to strengthen and sustain aspects of the city's economy that are based on arts and culture.

The plan, which took nearly two years to develop and study, spells out 38 strategies and a 10-year plan to achieve its goals. It would unite public and private arts interests within the community, including creative individuals, businesses, nonprofit organizations and educators.

The overriding goal of the effort is to support the growth and acknowledgement of San Antonio's creative economy, said Felix Padron, director of the city's Office of Cultural Affairs.

"There is a lot of richness here that is in place," Padron said. "But we have not yet made the investment or even the recognition."

Some of the strategies already have started, he said, but the goal is to have all of them going within three years.

Padron described the plan as fiscally responsible - providing a budget of \$2.8 million. However, it does not clearly identify the sources of funding.

"That is seed money to implement the strategies," he said. "We have to go through the exercise to see if indeed there are dollars available, but at least we're attempting to put a realistic budget in the document."